



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent

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MontCAS Montana Comprehensive Assessment System December 2006 Newsletter

2006-2007 MontCAS Testing Windows

November 28 – December 19, 2006	English Language Proficiency (ELP), for students with limited English Proficiency (LEP), Grades K-12. More details on pages 4-5 of this issue of <i>JUMP</i> .
January 22-March 2, 2007	NAEP, Grades 4 and 8, Reading and Math More details on page 6 of this issue of <i>JUMP</i>
February 12 – March 28, 2007	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math
March 5 – March 28, 2007	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math
March 22 – April 12, 2007	NRT and NRT Alternate Assessment Scales, Grades 4, 8, and 11, Language Arts, Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science



Please welcome Karen Richem to the assessment office at the Office of Public Instruction. Her major responsibilities are the management of the English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessment and training.

Contact information for Karen: krichem@mt.gov or 406-444-2410 (temporary number)

AND

Please welcome Carol Ogle who has returned to OPI from retirement to temporarily assist with assessment projects.

Contact information for Carol: cogle@mt.gov or 406-444-4431

The Assessment Toolbox

- ▶ The dates for OPI's second statewide assessment conference have been changed to April 23 and 24, 2007. Please mark the date changes on your calendars. The conference will be presented at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena.
- ▶ The conference is intended for Montana educators including teachers, curriculum directors, test coordinators, department/grade level chairs, administrators, and staff responsible for entering data into Achievement in Montana (AIM), the OPI student achievement system.
- ▶ A call for speakers is currently online. The deadline is January 15, 2007.
http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/conf/Call_for_speakers.pdf
- ▶ Please consider proposing a session or suggesting session topics/speakers to colleagues or to Judy Snow, jsnow@mt.gov or 406-444.3656. Districts, schools, and classroom teachers have much expertise to share individually or on panels.
- ▶ The program committee looks forward to your proposals and suggestions. Thank you to the members of the program committee for volunteering to work on this project: Robin Arnold, Bozeman Public Schools; Marilyn La Sorte, Columbia Falls Public Schools; Doug Reisig, Hellgate Elementary District; Duby Santee, Hamilton Public Schools; Mona Sindelar, Huntley Project Public Schools; and Tracy Stephens, Livingston Public Schools.
- ▶ Please check the conference website for periodic updates
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/assessconf/>
- ▶ Registration information will be online by January 10, 2007 on the conference website.



Testing Contractor Contact Information

MontCAS, Phase 1, the Iowa Tests—Riverside Publishing Company

Meredith Durgin, Montana Program Manager

meredith_durgin@hmco.com or 800-767-8420 x6094

Tasha Henderson, Program Coordinator

Tasha_Henderson@hmco.com or 800-767-8420-6310

Carol Taylor Cann, Montana Assessment Consultant

carol_taylor_cann@hmco.com or 800-767-8420 x7113

MontCAS, Phase 2, the CRT and the CRT-Alternate—Measured Progress

Sharon Houle, Montana CRT Program Manager

shoule@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901 x2186

Nancy Hall, Montana CRT Program Assistant

nhall@measuredprogress.org or 888-792-2741

Jake Goldsmith, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Manager

JGoldsmith@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901 x2239

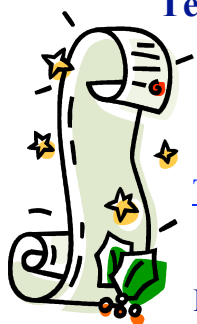
Niki Carr, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Assistant

ncarr@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901x2238

MontCAS, the English Language Proficiency (ELP)--TASA

Pamela Demarest, Program Manager

pdemarest@tasa.com or 845-854-9696



MontCAS, Phase 1

Iowa Tests Pretest Shipment for Spring 2007 Testing

Pretest materials will be shipped by Riverside to system test coordinators on January 22. The shipment will include the *2007 Test Coordinators Guide*, a training CD, and information on inventorying and ordering additional materials.



MontCAS, Phase 2

Spring 2007 CRT-Alternate and CRT Test Materials Schedule

Date	Test	Materials
Week of February 5, 2007	CRT-Alternate	System test coordinators will receive pretest materials from Measured Progress. The shipment will include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The black accordion file materials kits • Training information The following materials will be posted online: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2007 CRT-Alt Test Administrator Manual</i> • CRT-Alt Testing Booklets. These will be accessible by password only. System test coordinators will receive the passwords in a memo from Measured Progress.
Week of February 5, 2007	CRT	System test coordinators will receive pretest materials from Measured Progress. The shipment will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2007 CRT Test Coordinators Manual</i> • Training information The following materials will be posted online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2007 CRT Test Coordinators Manual</i> • <i>2007 Test Administrator Guides</i>
February 20-23, 2007	CRT-Alternate	System test coordinators will receive test materials. The shipment will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student response booklets • Plastic bags for return of testing materials—one per CRT-Alternate student • Bar code labels
February 20-23, 2007	CRT	System test coordinators will receive test materials. The shipment will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student response booklets • Test booklets • Bar code labels • Test administrator manuals



Effectiveness Report Test Data and *iAnalyze*

CRT test results for schools have been available at schools since October. The paper reports received from Measured Progress in September contain the test data. The data are also on *iAnalyze*. *iAnalyze* is a secure online site accessible by password. Test coordinators should already have the passwords; however, if they have been misplaced, please contact

- Carol Ogle (cogle@mt.gov or 406-444-4431)
- Karen Richem (krichem@mt.gov or 406-444-2410)
- Judy Snow (jsnow@mt.gov or 406-444-3656).

Please keep the passwords secure. Thank you.

OPI provides training on *iAnalyze* by request at schools. If you are interested in this training, please print, complete, and fax the online form:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/Forms/06TrainRqst.pdf>

OPI will contact you and arrange the training. There is no cost.

And, Measured Progress maintains an *iAnalyze* help desk. The email address is:

ianalyzehelp@measuredprogress.org

The English Language Proficiency (ELP) Test

State student identifiers

Are required on the answer documents for the ELP. Before the answer documents are returned for arrival at TASA (the testing contractor) on the January 10, 2007 deadline, they must have the nine digit state student identifiers entered. To provide those numbers, test coordinators and examiners, please do the following:

1. Check with your district's authorized representative and/or data person. Your authorized representative or data person will have that information.
2. If your school district has not yet requested state student identifiers, your authorized representative or data person needs to contact Sara Loewen at OPI, sloewen@mt.gov or 406-444-3494.

ELP Timeline

November 28-December 19, 2006	Testing Window
January 3 – 7, 2007	Systems ship testing materials to TASA
January 10, 2007	Deadline for TASA to receive materials from systems.

ELP Feedback

Thank you to all the test coordinators and examiners and others in the Montana schools who have worked to administer this new assessment. Because it is a new assessment, your feedback and comments are important. A feedback form will be online by Friday, December 8, 2006 on the assessment web site <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Assessment/ELP.html> Please fill it out as soon as possible while the process is still fresh in your minds.



Thank you for your input and your amazing efforts.

Standard Setting for the ELP



Montana educators will meet in February/March 2007 to study the results of the ELP and recommend the cut scores for proficiency levels. We are asking Montana teachers of students with limited English proficiency (LEP) and other grade level teachers to participate in standard setting. If you are interested, please complete a participation form. Please note on the form that you are requesting to participate in the ELP standard setting process. The form is online <http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/Forms/06AppParticipate.pdf> Please fax the form to Karen Richem or Judy Snow at 406-444-1373.

CRT-Alternate

Bar code information for students taking the Spring 2007 CRT-Alternate testing is being collected through the OPI student information system (AIM) collection. In addition, there will be a bubble on the student response booklet to indicate that the student took the CRT-Alt. However, to plan for and provide the special materials for each grade and each teacher, Measured Progress needs to know how many students at each grade in each school will be taking the CRT-Alternate. The deadline for the first collection of this information was November 20. That information has helped begin the process of producing the materials. However, as new students enter systems, Measured Progress needs to know the grade, school, and teacher. When a student is newly identified for the CRT-Alternate or is new to your school, there are two ways of providing that information to Measured Progress.

1. **Submit** the information online. The link for the directions and submission is <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/assessment/07EnrollVerify.pdf> Please note that the password is your four digit system (ss) code.

OR

2. **Contact** Niki Carr ncarr@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901x2238 with the following information]
 - a. System code (ss)
 - b. School code (sc)
 - c. Grade
 - d. Teacher who will be administering the CRT-Alternate
 - e. Date of submission
 - f. Number of new students you are registering per grade (Please do not resubmit the number of students you already submitted. Just submit the number of students you have not previously submitted.

Measured Progress will continue tracking this information so that their February shipment of materials will be current.



Released Item/*iAnalyze* Training

The Office of Public Instruction Assessment Office continues to offer training on the use of the 2006 CRT released items and the online data program *iAnalyze*.

A form to request training is online:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/Forms/06TrainRqst.pdf>

If your system is interested in OPI training in November or December 2006 or January 2007, please print the form and fax it to Karen Richem, 406-444-1373.

Thank You

Modified CRT (CRT-M)

Thank you to the educators who participated in the CRT-Modified pilot standard setting in November. OPI continues to collect and evaluate the data. Because this is a lengthy process, the decision on the feasibility of the CRT-M will not be made in time for after Spring 2007 CRT testing.

More Assessment Information

From the NAEP Coordinator

November 17 was the deadline for electronic filing of student lists, and Montana schools came through with flying colors. This was truly a heroic task involving hundreds of people across the state, and all deserve a great round of applause.



The next two items on the NAEP schedule will be to send out a parent notification letter of the upcoming test (December and January), and visits to schools by teams of Montana people who are working under contract with NAEP to administer the tests. The January visits will hammer out the logistics of the test day and gather any last-moment student enrollment information. As always, everyone involved in the NAEP cycle will be working to minimize impact on school schedules and instruction time. Watch the *JUMP* newsletter for further information and announcements pertaining to the 2007 NAEP testing cycle.

Mike Chapman

NAEP State Coordinator

Montana Office of Public Instruction

PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501

mchapman@mt.gov or 406-444-4527

Montana University System Writing Proficiency Policy Reminder

- ✚ The 2007 Testing Window for the Montana University System Writing Assessment (MUSWA) is February 5 through March 9. Scoring will take place from March 8 through March 30 in Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena, Miles City, Missoula, Whitefish, and possibly Glasgow. Exact scoring dates are now being set. Results should be back to schools around April 25.
- ✚ High schools must register to participate in the MUSWA and send one staff member to a training/scoring workshop for every 40 tests submitted. See the Writing Proficiency Website for test registration and other information:
<http://mus.montana.edu/writingproficiency/index.htm>.

Happy Holidays

OPI Assessment Contact
Judy Snow, State Assessment Director
406-444-3656 jsnow@mt.gov

